

Emission Factors and Inventories Group
Emissions Monitoring and Analysis Division
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
Mail Code D205-02
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711

The **1999 National Emissions Inventory (NEI)** from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is **now available** on-line.

For general information on the NEI, go to <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/eidocs/nei.html>.

What kind of inventory data is EPA releasing at this time?

EPA is releasing a draft inventory for hazardous air pollutants and a final inventory for criteria air pollutants.

1. Draft Version 3 of the 1999 NEI for hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) (available at <ftp://ftp.epa.gov/EmisInventory/draftnei99ver3/>)

HAPs are generally defined as those pollutants that are known or suspected to cause serious health problems. More information about HAPs can be found online at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/nti/index.html>.

Draft Version 3 of the 1999 NEI for HAPs is in NET (National Emission Trends) input format (NIF) and contains 1999 inventory information received from State and Local Agencies, Tribal Authorities, industries, as well as a number of EPA offices. NIF is the standard electronic data format used to exchange emission inventory data in a compact form. More information about interpreting the tables, variables, and codes used in the NIF can be found online at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/nif/index.html>.

Draft Version 3 of the 1999 NEI for hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) is being released for the purpose of getting review and corrections from state/local/tribal air management agencies or any other party with such information. EPA does not recommend its use in any official way. It is not suitable for informing the general public about the subject of air pollution from HAPs. When comments and corrections have been incorporated, EPA will release a final version 3 of this inventory.

2. Final version 2 of the 1999 NEI for criteria pollutants, plus ammonia (available at <ftp://ftp.epa.gov/EmisInventory/finalnei99ver2/>).

The criteria pollutants are carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, volatile organic compounds, and particulate matter (both 10 and 2.5 microns). This inventory is also in NIF and contains 1999 inventory information received from State and Local Agencies, Tribal Authorities, as well as a number of EPA offices.

EPA considers this final version 2 inventory to be suitable for general use at this time. However, this

inventory is not the last 1999 criteria emissions inventory EPA plans to issue. EPA is still working a draft of version 3 of this inventory, which will incorporate data received too late for this version 2, after which EPA will seek comments and corrections and issue a final version 3.

Where can I find more information about the 1999 NEI data files?

Informational README files contain information about the file type, file formats, national data files, state data files, summary data files, and documentation of the NEI.

README files are available for Draft Version 3 of the 1999 NEI for hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) are posted at

(ftp://ftp.epa.gov/EmisInventory/draftnei99ver3/haps/documentation/readme99ntiver3_sept2002.pdf)

README files are available for the final version 2 of the 99NEI for criteria pollutants are posted at (<ftp://ftp.epa.gov/EmisInventory/finalnei99ver2/criteria/readmecritv2.pdf>).

How was this information developed?

In general, these inventories were developed with input from states, locals, tribes, industry, as well as a number of EPA offices. If a state did not submit data, EPA either used data from an earlier year and “grew” the emissions (e.g., criteria stationary sources) or used only data available from other sources (e.g., HAP collected by EPA as part of the development of emission standards, or data submitted by sources under the Toxics Release Inventory program). The README and inventory documentation files referenced above provide more detail on the data used and how it was incorporated.

What are the known uncertainties, errors, and open issues with this information?

There are numerous uncertainties associated with these inventories. Here are some of the sources of uncertainty.

1. Emission data is of variable and in some cases undocumented derivation. Many of the emission estimates were submitted by the sources of the emissions to state/local/tribal air agencies, and then to EPA, without full explanations of how the emissions were estimated.
2. Not all sources are accounted for. In some states, very small sources have been reported, while in others only the largest sources in certain types of industry are included.
3. Not all states submit data. For example, for the criteria pollutants, 35 out of 50 states submitted data to EPA. For the other states, EPA “grew” the affected portions of the inventory from an earlier year. This would obviously omit sources that came online in the target year and erroneously include sources that have shut down. For more information on which states submitted data and for which states the inventory is “grown”, refer to the documentation for the respective inventory sector (point, area, mobile, non-road) and the respective pollutant (HAPs or criteria). The criteria documentation can be found online at <ftp://ftp.epa.gov/EmisInventory/finalnei99ver2/criteria/documentation/> and the HAP documentation can be found online at

<ftp://ftp.epa.gov/EmisInventory/draftnei99ver3/haps/documentation/>. Some of the states for which 1999 data were not available when these inventory versions were compiled have now provided EPA with their data, and EPA is working to incorporate this data into the next versions. Among these for criteria pollutants are Arizona, Arizona (Salt river pima- maricopa Indian community), Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, New Jersey, New York, Nevada, Oregon (Umatilla tribe), and Tennessee for point sources, and Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Mississippi, Oregon, New Hampshire, Tennessee (Davidson county), Virginia, and Vermont for area sources. These data will be incorporated into version 3 for criteria pollutants.

For HAPs, data from the following states are not in draft Version 3 but are being incorporated. The states are Texas, Oregon, and Arizona for point source inventories and the Olympic Region Clean Air Agency (Washington) for non-point source inventories.

In addition to the uncertainties in the inventory, there are other known problems. One, is that the HAP inventory has duplications that EPA is working to identify and resolve. Remember that the HAP inventory is draft and EPA soliciting comments from the public. See elsewhere in this message for guidance on submitting comments.

Secondly, both of the inventories being released include some estimates by EPA which EPA has since decided to reconsider. Specifically, the estimates for dioxin emissions in the draft HAP inventory will be reconsidered to incorporate newer information and to assess the quality of estimates submitted by states, even if there are no comments received from the states, industry, or the public. The estimates for construction related soil dust emissions and for open burning of debris from land clearing for road and building construction will be reconsidered, especially for urban areas. Possibly, the next version of the criteria emissions inventory will incorporate recent or forthcoming emission estimates by the Western Regional Air Partnership for wildfires, prescribed burning, agricultural burning, and unpaved road dust. There may be other revisions at EPA's initiative.

What will EPA do with this information?

As a general example of some of the things the NEI could be used for, see section 2.0, page 5 of the "1999 National Emission Inventory Preparation Plan-Revised (February 2001)." This document is available online at <ftp://ftp.epa.gov/EmisInventory/draftnei99ver3/>.

What should state air agencies and other non-EPA organizations do with the information? What should they not do?

Agencies reviewing the Draft Version 3 of the 1999 NEI for hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) should look for completeness and accuracy. EPA is providing summary files to facilitate public review. The summary files are located online at <ftp://ftp.epa.gov/EmisInventory/draftnei99ver3/haps/summaries/>. Comments are due to EPA by February 1, 2003. Remember that since the inventory is draft, it should not be used as the basis for important policies. See below for how to submit comments..

To facilitate the review and correction of Draft Version 3 of the 1999 NEI for hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), EPA will be releasing draft 99 NATA modeled ambient concentrations using the ASPEN

dispersion model in January 2003. The draft 99 NATA modeling ambient concentrations will be developed using the draft version 3.0 1999 NEI for HAPs. The availability of the draft modeling results and the location of the draft data will be announced on the CHIEF web site (<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/>) EPA encourages reviewers to provide comments on the draft modeling results and on the draft emission inventory data to EPA. **Send all comments to EPA by February 1, 2003.**

The criteria 99NEI can be used as is, but know that the EPA is working on version 3 of the criteria inventory so there will be an updated version of the criteria 1999 NEI.

How can states and others point out possible errors in this information?

For the draft version 3 for HAPs, remember that **comments are due by February 1, 2003**. Information on how to submit comments can be found in the document entitled “READ ME File for the 1999 NEI for HAPs”, located online at ftp://ftp.epa.gov/EmisInventory/draftnei99ver3/haps/documentation/readme99ntiver3_sept2002.pdf. If errors are found in the final version 2 for criteria pollutants, please contact Roy Huntley by email at Huntley.Roy@epa.gov, or by voice at (919) 541-1060.